

**304 Franklin Avenue**  
**Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19460**

January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to support the antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice. The settlement was reached after many long hours of negotiation, and represents the best viable solution to the antitrust dispute.

I think it is a waste of resources and time for any states to oppose such a settlement and hope that Microsoft is allowed to focus on making a positive contribution to the technology sector as soon as possible without being harassed further by politicians and lawmakers.

Some may say that the settlement goes too easy on Microsoft. This is simply not the case. Microsoft will have to share information about internal interfaces within Windows, allowing the companies to tinker with Windows and install their own software on the operating system. Additionally, Microsoft will be prevented from retaliating against companies that distribute or promote products made by Microsoft's competitors.

It is for all these reasons and more that I support the settlement and hope to see it implemented soon.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Barba

cc: Senator Rick Santorum